

Grades

6-8

THE WOMEN'S MUSEUM: AN INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

Milestones in Women's History

Before visiting the Museum

Vocabulary

Suffrage: A conference held in 1848 discuss women's rights- the first of its kind.

Seneca Falls Convention: Constitutional amendment passed in 1920 that granted all people the right to vote, regardless of gender.

Title IX: Ground-breaking legislation passed in 1972 that made it illegal for schools to discriminate against women in sports.

19th Amendment: The right to vote

Feminism: Philosphy and theory concerning the experiences of women.

What have women done in history?

More than you can imagine! Women have made numerous contributions to American society over the years. Some of these contributions are well known, but others have been overlooked. For instance; did you know that women fought in the American Revolution?

In exploring the Milestones in Women's History timeline, you will have the opportunity to learn about events and accomplishments that have impacted not only women, but all of American society.

Questions for Discussion:

What are some major accomplishments of women in history?

Do you think there are any events in history that women did not play a part of? Are you sure?

Can women today effect events around the world more than they could a hundred years ago? If so, why?

Women Changing History

As you saw at *The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future*, women have contributed many great things to American history. Choose one milestone from the timeline that you think is the most important event or accomplishment by an American woman. (Please note- this event does not have to affect JUST women!) Write an essay explaining why this event

was important. Consider how this event has affected your life or the lives of others you know. Discuss how you think life in the United States might be different today if this event had never happened.

What is a milestone?

Have you heard the phrase, "Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes?" Actually, we could rephrase this old saying as, "Don't judge a man until he has walked the trail with Sacajawea." Sacajawea not only walked as far as Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific Northwest, she carried her newborn baby on her back and guided the explorers to water and food along the way. She taught the men *survival skills*. In the history books, Louis and Clark got the credit for blazing the trail to the Great Northwest, but they would have had a much harder time achieving their milestones without the help of Sacajawea. Reaching a goal is called a milestone, especially if time and effort were involved.

At the Museum

Women have many attributes that describe their ability to achieve whatever milestones they set out to reach. Some of these are:

strength
power
intelligence
gentleness
understanding
curiosity
creativity

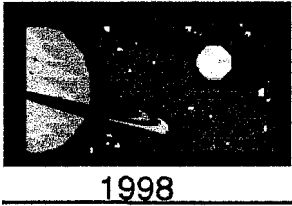
determination
flexibility dedi-
cation
love
resourcefulness
problem solving
order

sacrifice
anger
loyalty
steadfastness
elaboration
neatness
bossiness

Get with a group of classmates and brainstorm women, both famous and ones that you know in your life, that exhibit these and other attributes you may come up with.

Milestones in Women's History: During Your Visit. ..

As you study the Milestones in Women's History timeline, be sure to open the drawers in the wall and consider the stories the artifacts tell. After careful consideration, select three events represented in the Milestones exhibit that have had a direct impact on your life. Write the date and draw a symbol to represent each event in the column on the left. In the center box, write a statement about the event. In the box on the right, tell how you are directly connected to this event now or plan to be in the future.

Notes	Date and Symbol	My Connection to the Event
<p>In 1998, 16% of engineers were women.</p>		<p>'I want to see this percent increase because I plan to be a space engineer and live in a satellite city orbiting the earth.</p>

Milestones in MY History and my Future

You will need 10 3x5 note cards, colored markers, yarn or string and a hole punch

On each of the first three cards, describe an event in your past life that was a *milestone* for you. It could be something like "I was born ... " or "I moved to a new neighborhood." Create a symbol or illustration on the other side of each card about the event.

On just one card, write about your present life. Choose one thing in your life right now that describes your situation. Create a symbol or illustration for it on the other side.

On the next six cards think about your future. Imagine how you want your life to shape up. Draw the pictures of your future and describe your plans on the other side of each card.

When you are finished, punch holes in the cards and tie them together to create a display of your life's milestones. Take a look at your life right now. In six months, see if changes have happened.

Display the milestones as a hanging mobile at home or in your classroom at school.

Women Who Paved The Way

The following books feature women and events that can be found in the *Milestones in Women's History* exhibit at The Women's Museum. Choose a book to read as a class. Discuss the book together, or have each student write a report about the book. See if you can find the event on the timeline during your visit to The Women's Museum.

What I Had Was Singing:

The Story of Marian Anderson
by Jeri Ferris

You Want Women to Vote,
Lizzie Stanton?
by Jean Fritz

Wild Rose: Nancy Ward and
the Cherokee Nation by Mary
Furbee

Sacajawea: Her True Story
by Joyce Milton

I am Rosa Parks by Rosa
Parks

Harriet Tubman: Conductor
on the Underground Railroad
by Ann Lane Petry

After the Museum